

A monthly newsletter for the citizens of the City of Rockville

## 4-Year Mayor and Council Terms Recommended

### Charter Commission Suggests Extension; Advises to Keep Most Areas Unchanged

A 12-member appointed ad-hoc commission that has been studying various aspects of the Rockville City Charter has recommended that members of the City’s Mayor and Council be elected for four-year terms. The Mayor and four Councilmembers are currently elected for two-year terms.

The Charter Review Commission, which was appointed by the Mayor and Council in July, made several other recommended changes in a report that was delivered on Dec. 31. The report was the subject of a public work session on Jan. 14, and a public hearing on Tuesday, Jan. 21.

The commission, co-chaired by residents David Cahoon and David Hill, was appointed to review subjects in the Charter — akin to the City constitution — regarding the elected portion of the City government and the election process.

The Mayor and Council will take the commission’s recom-

mendations under consideration. They may choose to make no changes, make these or other changes subject to the legal process of the City or put certain questions on the November ballot for citizens as advisory referenda. If the Mayor and Council choose to change the Charter directly, it is possible those changes could be in place prior to the Nov. 4 election.

Among the other recommended changes made by the commission:

- Decreasing the number of signatures needed for placing voter-initiated referenda on the ballot. This new number would be 30 percent of the average number of ballots cast in the prior three regular Mayor and Council elections. [The charter currently requires signatures of 10 percent of all voters.]
- A new method to decrease the number of signatures required to qualify a recall petition for continued Mayor and

Council service. The new formula would require 30 percent of the average number of ballots cast in the prior three regular Mayor and Council elections. [The charter currently requires signatures of 20 percent of all voters.]

Overall, the commission found that the City currently functions well. It recommended against:

- Expanding the number of Councilmembers
- Electing Councilmembers by districts [all four are presently elected at-large]
- Attempting to increase voter participation by moving elections to weekends, another time of the year or to years in which general elections also are being held
- Staggering terms of office
- Making non-charter referenda results binding on the Mayor and Council
- Allowing non-U.S. citizen residents not be permitted to vote in City elections

In addition to Cahoon and Hill, also serving on the Charter Review Commission were Doris Ecelbarger, Sue Edwards, Shelly Hardwick, Fran Hawkins, Gerald Holtz, Jennifer Kaye, Phyllis Marcuccio, James Marrinan,

Robert Pittman and Roald Shrack. There also were a number of invited guests/experts that addressed the commission, including former elected officials of the City and the executive directors of the International City Managers’ Association and the National League of Cities. A Public Forum was held on Sept. 12. [RR](#)

- INSIDE
- Town Center Insert
  - City Projects Updates



**REINDEER GAMES** *Interpretive natural and cultural history programs are available throughout the year at Croydon Creek Nature Center. Youngsters had the chance to meet real reindeer (Minnie and Emma Lucy) during a trip in December. The nature center offers events for all ages, toddlers through seniors. The nature center number is 240-314-8770.*

## Oziel, Bass Honored at MLK Jr. Celebration

Miryam Oziel and Vivian Bass were honored at Rockville’s 31st Annual Martin Luther King Jr. birthday celebration in January at the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre. The event, sponsored by the Mayor and Council and Human Rights Commission, featured the theme “Living the Dream: Stories from the Civil Rights Movement in Rockville: A Multimedia Event.”

In addition to the awards, University of Maryland professor Ira Berlin was a guest speaker and former Rockville resident Daryl Davis per-

formed with singer Geraldine Brown.

Oziel, a senior at Richard Montgomery High School, received the Martin Luther King Jr. Youth Award for her work in the name of civil rights and equality. A four-year member of Amnesty International, Oziel, now president, organized an all-night Write-A-Thon to write letters to government officials regarding injustices in the world. Additionally, Oziel has worked to promote positive communication between Jewish and African-American teens with various religious and cul-



**Vivian Bass (left) and Miryam Oziel display their awards following the MLK Jr. celebration.**

tural backgrounds. She was selected for “Operation Understanding D.C.,” a yearlong educational program with 22 teens of diverse backgrounds.

“Participating in programs such as the Operation Under-

standing D.C. has helped me learn how to communicate with others,” Oziel said. “It has allowed me to appreciate differences between myself and other participants, and note the similarities.”

The other finalists were Almutairi Deltoria, Felisha Gallant, Mehrnoush Karimian, Christopher Kroeker, Abdulla Nasser and Daniela V. Young.

Bass, Executive Director of the Jewish Foundation for Group Homes (JFGH), received the F. Michael Taff Award for her work to improve the lives of people with disabilities. She has been employed in a leadership capacity for programs serving individuals with disabilities in the greater Metro community for 26 years.

In addition to her 17 years with JFGH, Bass has served numerous organizations, including the Jewish Community Center of Greater Washington, Potomac Community Resources and the Board of Jewish Education of Greater Washington’s Special Education Program.

“It is a tremendous honor to be recognized by Rockville’s Human Rights Commission and the Mayor and Council with this award,” said Bass. “Working in this field and in Montgomery County has given me an incredible opportunity to be part of an exceptional collaboration between our local governments, corporate sector and agencies.”

Cathy Puckett was the other finalist for the award. [RR](#)

## February’s Best of Rockville

**2 Groundhog Day Celebration.** 2 p.m. Games, singing, crafts and more. Pay homage to our furry weather forecaster with a visit to a nearby den. All ages welcome. Croydon Creek Nature Center, 852 Avery Road, at Rockville Civic Center Park. Call 240-314-8770.

**2 Rockville Regional Youth Orchestra “Winter Concert.”** The performance at F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre begins at 7:30 p.m. and is free to the public. The Orchestra is comprised of student musicians in grades 4-9. For more information, call 240-314-8682 or 240-314-8690.

**9 Glenview Mansion’s Fourth Annual Bridal Expo.** 12 noon-4 p.m. Vendors and services will be on display (right) to make a wedding day extra special. Tickets in advance are \$5; at the door are \$7. Rockville Civic Center Park, 603 Edmonston Dr. Call for a reservation: 240-314-8660.



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# Televising Debates Topic Of Public Hearing

Changes and, in some instances, clarifications of policies for City of Rockville elections were the subject of a Jan. 13 public hearing before the Mayor and Council at City Hall.

All measures, if eventually approved by the Mayor and Council, could be in effect for the 2003 campaign season in which the Mayoral and all four Councilmember seats are up for election. Public comment will be accepted through Feb. 10. The election will be Tuesday, Nov. 4.

Among the notable campaign policy issues considered were:

- Holding up to three televised issue-driven public forums or debates between candidates for City offices. The forums or debates will be sponsored/hosted by independent, non-partisan organizations.
- Allowing declared candidates for Rockville offices to march in the City’s annual Memorial Day Parade. [Currently, only incumbents are

- permitted to march.]
- Barring political ads from City publications

“The City Council and I just a few months back decided we needed to have a written set of policies concerning campaigns here in Rockville,” said Mayor Larry Giammo at the public hearing. “We also wanted to address specific issues we think are important in terms of making sure that there is a level playing field for all candidates to foster more people running for office here in the City.”

The Mayor and Council have discussed campaign policy reviews at four public sessions over the past year, including at the Dec. 9 general session. At that meeting, it was decided a public hearing should be held before adopting a resolution.

The issues that are part of the proposed campaign policies resolution are different from issues being studied by the Charter Review Commission (See article on Page 1). [RR](#)

## City Projects UPDATE

### PUBLIC WORKS

#### TWINBROOK

**Sewer Rehabilitation** • Sewer evaluation survey, including flow monitoring, smoke testing and video inspection of underground piping, for the southeastern area of Twinbrook has been completed and the results are being evaluated • Design to be accomplished during winter • Construction planned for summer 2003

#### WEST END

**Brick sidewalks** • Laird Street installation completed • Forest Street work is nearing completion • Staff is evaluating Lynch and Luckett Streets for potential FY04 work

#### GENERAL PROJECTS

**Bike/Pedestrian Improvements** • Route 28 at I-270 and Nelson Street planned for summer 2003 • Route 28 and Great Falls Road planned for fall 2003 • Hurley Avenue sidewalk improvements planned for spring 2003 • Darnestown Road sidewalk improvements planned for fall 2003 • Beall Elementary School sidewalk improvements planned for fall 2003 • Horners Lane improvements planned for fall 2003

**Cabin John Sewer Upgrade** • Design is 80 percent complete for sewer upgrade between Montrose Road and Wootton Parkway • Stream restoration is included • Construction planned for spring 2003

**Fallsgrove Off-Site Improvements** • Intersections to be improved include West Montgomery Avenue and Shady Grove Road (completed); West Montgomery Ave. and Gude Drive (to be started this winter); Gude Drive and Gaither Road (to be started this winter); I-270 and Shady Grove Road (to be started in summer 2003); I-270, Route 28 and Nelson St. (to be started in summer 2003); and Gude Drive and Research Blvd. (underway)

**Mount Vernon SWM** • Improvements will be made to Cabin John Creek with modifications to existing storm water management • Construction ongoing • Completion in late spring 2003

**North Horners Lane Utilities Improvement** • Water main upgrade planned between Southlawn Lane and Westmore Avenue • Stream restoration is included • Construction in summer 2003

**Tower Oaks Marsh** • Marsh on east side of Tower Oaks Boulevard is under design • Construction is planned for spring 2003

**Wootton Parkway Improvements** • New traffic signal and an extra turn lane are being added on Scott Drive at Wootton Parkway to separate right and left turn movements (construction has begun) • Intersection of Wootton Parkway and Glen Mill Road is being modified so Wootton Parkway continues straight to Darnestown Road

### RECREATION & PARKS

#### HUNGERFORD

**Dawson Farm Park** • Replacement of wooden bridge and reconstruction of granary in historically sensitive manner and to serve as a park shelter/gazebo • Installation of artwork • Construction scheduled for spring 2003 • Public input has been incorporated into design

#### GENERAL PROJECTS

**Beall-Dawson Historical Park** • Minor landscaping enhancements • Installation of directional signs and benches • Scheduled for spring 2003

**Dog Park** • Rockville Dog Owners Group (RDOG) has been formed to begin the site selection process in winter 2003. Proposal presented to Mayor and Council for final site approval in spring 2003

**Fallsgrove Village Green** • Park built and paid for by the developer • Artwork installation is completed and construction in progress to be completed spring 2003

**Hurley Avenue Bike Path** • Construction scheduled for May 2003

**Isreal Park** • Design is under review for building permit • Construction spring 2003

**King Farm 28-acre Park** • Design team is being selected which will meet with community members and staff to develop concepts for park design in spring 2003

**Mary Trumbo Park** • Design has been approved for park in East Rockville • Committee has been formed to select artwork • Construction to begin in spring 2003

**Millennium Trail** • Norbeck Road multi-use path from East Gude Drive to Veirs Mill Road in design • Construction scheduled for 2003 • Resurfacing of path along Wootton Parkway from Edmonston Drive to Falls Road scheduled for 2003 • Veirs Mill Road to Edmonston Drive currently under design (\$670,000 grant received)

**Rockville Senior Center** • Expand dining room • Renovate kitchen • Soundproof card and computer rooms • Currently in design stage • Construction in fall 2003

**I-270/Route 28 Bike/Pedestrian Bridge** • Separate bridge parallel to Route 28 on south side across I-270 to connect Hurley Ave. and Nelson Street bikeways • TEA-21 award for \$3,124,421 received from State Highway Administration • Under design • Construction scheduled for summer 2003

## Focus on URBAN FORESTRY

### Growing In Rockville

*Rockville has many programs that affect the lives of residents. On a regular basis, “Focus On” will take an introspective look at these programs and detail the impact they have for City residents.*

Rockville is filled with extraordinary citizens who strive to make the City a better place. And two such citizens – Joe Morra and Colleen Crowder – have taken the initiative to utilize resources from the City and State of Maryland to keep Rockville a beautiful place to live.

With the help of City Forester Susan Nolde and Maryland Department of Natural Resources Forest Service’s Terry Galloway, Morra and Crowder have launched the **Rockville Tree Project**. The effort is supported by the state’s **TREE-MENDOUS MARYLAND** program that seeks to promote tree planting throughout the area.

Morra’s goal is to raise \$10,000 by July in hopes of planting trees this fall. Thanks to a grant from the Chesapeake Bay Trust, the **Rockville Tree Project** is off to a good start. The Trust awarded the **Rockville Tree Project** \$2,000 that will be used to plant trees along streambeds to protect the waters that run to the Bay. Overall, street trees and trees in public parklands will be the areas of focus for the project.

“With all the support we have, the trees practically plant themselves,” said Morra, a Rockville resident whose family moved to the City in 1966. “This is too easy not to do. There are a lot of citizens who want to do something good for the community, but just don’t know how to go about it. The **TREE-MENDOUS MARYLAND** program is so well organized, all we have to do is raise the money.”

Contributions can be made by requesting “Gift of Tree Cards” from Galloway, director of **TREE-MENDOUS MARYLAND**, at 410-260-8510 or [tgalloway@dnr.state.md.us](mailto:tgalloway@dnr.state.md.us). Applications also can be accessed at <http://www.dnr.state.md.us/forests/treemendous>. Make sure to reference the **“Rockville Tree Project”** in all correspondence to avoid confusion with other projects. Those interested in volunteering to help plant the trees also may contact Galloway. [RR](#)



**City Forester Susan Nolde is helping to facilitate the “Rockville Tree Project,” which will bring more trees to the City, like this American Holly.**

## Celebrating Black History Month

*The following events will take place as part of the City’s celebration of Black History Month:*

- **“The Underground Railroad”** is a presentation about the long road to freedom from a modern traveler exploring the journey of previous runaway slaves. It features Tony Cohen of the Menare Foundation. The program is Monday, Feb. 17, from 1-2:30 p.m., at the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre in the Civic Center Park. No tickets are required and the

event is free. For more information call Karen Rawlins at 240-314-8633.

- **The Finest! Youth Performance Troupe** will perform in the 8th Annual African-American History Production Jan. 30-Feb. 1 at the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre. Show times are 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$7 (general admission) and \$5 (ages 12-under and 60-over) and can be purchased by calling the box office at 240-314-8690. For

more information contact Rawlins.

- The Rockville Senior Center will host **“A History Lesson”** on Tuesday, Feb. 18, from 7-8:30 p.m. for seniors who make a reservation. Eileen McGuckian of Peerless Rockville will discuss the African-American experience in this area from 1700 to the present. For more information contact the Senior Center at 240-314-8800. The Senior Center is located at 1150 Carnation Dr. [RR](#)



In Brief

City Helps With Tax Returns

The City of Rockville realizes that preparing taxes can be a daunting task, so the Department of Neighborhood and Community Services is offering free tax preparation assistance to low-income residents and senior citizens every Tuesday through tax day, April 15. The City has been providing this special and much-needed service for more than 25 years.

In cooperation with the Maryland Association of Certified Public Accountants and the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program, volunteer tax advisors with extensive preparation experience will be available to citizens who make appointments in advance by calling 240-314-8310. Tax preparation will be provided from 7:30-9 p.m. at 32 Courthouse Square in Rockville.

Seniors and homebound residents eligible to receive this service may call 301-468-4179 for additional assistance.

CALL 240-314-8310 FOR INFO

BINGO! Fund-Raiser

Rockville Seniors Inc. will host a bingo fund-raising event on Monday, Feb. 17, at the Rockville Senior Center. Early birds start at 1 p.m. Regular games start at 1:30 p.m. Ad-

mission is \$1. Cards range from \$3 to \$5 for a \$1,000 jackpot. All proceeds benefit the Rockville Senior Center.

CALL 240-314-5161 FOR INFO

196 Garden Plots Available in 2003

The City of Rockville's Department of Recreation and Parks is offering 196 garden plots in Woottons Mill Park on Hurley Avenue. The garden season runs April 1 to Nov. 15, and registration begins for Rockville residents on Feb. 20. Nonresidents may register beginning March 3.

The plots are approximately 20-by-25 feet and there are six water sources available. The cost is \$25 per plot for residents and \$35 per plot for nonresidents.

CALL 240-314-8660 FOR INFO

Used Bikes Needed

Take a look around your garage, basement, porch or backyard to see if you have a bicycle that you can donate to the Rockville CHARACTER COUNTS!SM Program. Used bicycles are being accepted for this program, which encourages children to develop good character and be good citizens.

Usable mountain bikes, especially children's sizes, requiring only minor repair are especially needed. Minor repairs include brake adjustment and repair, loose parts, worn seats, rusty or defective chains



YOU, TOO, CAN BE A GRADUATE The graduating class of the fall 2002 semester of Rockville University poses with Mayor Larry Giammo (far left) and Councilmembers Susan Hoffmann and John Hall, Jr. (front row, left to right).

or tire and tube replacement. Bikes that need major repairs will not be accepted.

Bikes may be dropped off at the Croydon Creek Nature Center, 852 Avery Road (behind the Glenview Mansion in the Rockville Civic Center Park) on Saturday, Feb. 22, and Sunday, Feb. 23, from 2-5 p.m., or the week of Feb. 24, from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Donations are tax deductible.

CALL 240-314-8626 FOR INFO

Hitting the Books

Attending college costs a tremendous amount of money – but the unique Rockville University experience is free.

With eight weeks of classroom instruction beginning March 6, Rockville citizens develop the skills necessary to

get involved in the community, become civic leaders and understand local government through investigation of City history, government, facilities, neighborhoods and many other aspects.

Issues and activities slated for this semester are the history and trends of Rockville, Council/Manager government, tours and how City departments impact the community.

Rockville University is open to any Rockville citizen 16 and older. Class size is limited to 25, and participants must be able to attend most classes, which are held once a week for two to three hours.

Registration ends Feb. 18. Log on to [www.ci.rockville.md.us/rockvilleu](http://www.ci.rockville.md.us/rockvilleu).

CALL 240-314-8343 FOR INFO

Para Ud.

Ayuda de la Ciudad para Preparar la Declaración de Impuestos

El Departamento de Servicios al Vecindario y la Comunidad ofrece asistencia gratuita para preparar la declaración de impuestos todos los martes hasta el 15 de abril de 2003. La Ciudad presta este servicio especial tan necesario desde hace más de 25 años.

En cooperación con la Asociación de Contadores Públicos de Maryland y el Programa Voluntario de Asistencia para el Impuesto sobre la Renta, habrá asesores tributarios con experiencia disponibles para los ciudadanos que hagan citas con antelación llamando al 240-314-8310. Esta preparación tributaria se realiza de 7:30 a 9:00 p.m. en 32 Courthouse Square en Rockville.

Para mayor información llame al 240-314-8310. Los adultos mayores (seniors) y los residentes confinados al hogar que estén calificados para recibir este servicio pueden llamar al 301-468-4179 para asistencia adicional.

— Translated by Victoria Imas-Duchovny

CITY 9 Glenview Mansion's Fourth Annual Bridal Expo. 12-4 p.m.

17 The Underground Railroad. 1-2:30 p.m. F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre in the Civic Center Park. Free.

22 Off-Leash Dog Testing. 10 a.m. Middle Lane parking lot. Tests if dogs can be walked without a leash. Call 240-314-8930 to register in advance.

ARTS 2-25 Glenview Mansion Art Gallery. Theresa Martin, mixed media assemblages; North Bethesda Camera Club, "Eggs" photography. Reception: 1-4 p.m., Feb. 2; Artist Talk: 7:30 p.m., Feb. 13; Guided Gallery Tour: 10 a.m., Feb. 14. For information call 240-314-8682.

2 Glenview Mansion Concert Series, "QuinTango." Classical tangos, 2 p.m. Free. For information call 240-314-8682.

2 Rockville Regional Youth Orchestra "Winter Concert." F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre. 7:30 p.m. Free. For information call 240-314-8682 or 240-314-8690.

7-8 National Chamber Orchestra. Featured guest is John Feely on guitar. 8 p.m. Tickets \$17, \$27, \$37. Call the box office at 240-314-8690.

14-16,21-22,28 Mar. 1-2 Victorian Lyric Opera Company. "The Pirates of Penzance." 8 p.m. (except for Feb. 16, 22 and March 2 at 2 p.m.). Tickets \$12, \$15. Call the box office at 240-314-8690.

february calendar of events

23 Rockville Concert Band. Sunday Afternoon Concert. 3 p.m. Free. For information call 240-314-8681.

23 The 2003 Rockville Student Art Show. Delivery/registration, 2-4 p.m. Glenview Mansion. For information call 240-314-8682.

NATURE CENTER All programs at the Croydon Creek Nature Center, 852 Avery Road, Rockville Civic Center Park. Phone: 240-314-8770.

2 Groundhog Day Celebration. No reservations required. 2 p.m. All ages.

5 Tiny Tot Walk - Roar and More. 10:30 a.m. \$2 residents/\$3 nonresidents. Ages 1 -2 years.

5 Tyke Hike - Roar and More. 1 p.m. \$2 residents/\$3 nonresidents. Ages 3-5 years.

8 Skunked by Skunk Cabbage. 1 p.m. \$2 residents/\$3 nonresidents. All ages.

11 Night Gliders - Flying Squirrels. 1 p.m. \$2 residents/\$3 nonresidents. Ages 6 and older.

11 Animal Valentines. 3 p.m. \$3 residents/\$4 nonresidents. Ages 4 and older.

14 Coyote Calling. 6:30 p.m. \$2 residents/\$3 nonresidents. All ages.

17 Oldsquaws, Buffleheads and Pintails. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. \$20 residents/\$24 nonresidents. Ages 16 and older.

20 Celebrate the Chesapeake. 4 p.m. \$3 residents/\$4 nonresidents. Ages 7-14.

SENIORS All programs at the Rockville Senior Center, 1150 Carnation Dr., unless noted. Phone: 240-314-8800.

Jan 28-Feb. 18 Understanding Windows. Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1-3 p.m. \$40. Registration required.

3-13 Conversational French. Mondays and Thursdays, 10 a.m.-12 noon. Registration required.

3,10,17,24 Free Income Tax Assistance for seniors. Appointments are mandatory. Call 301-468-4179.

4-20 Care and Repair of Your Computer. Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10 a.m.-12 noon. \$40. Registration required.

7 Bath and Beyond. 10 a.m.-12 noon. Register by Jan. 28. \$5 members/\$8 nonmembers.

12 Vegetables Aren't Just for Rabbits. 10 a.m.-12 noon. Register by Jan. 29. \$15 members/\$19 nonmembers.

13 Darkroom Techniques. 10 a.m.-12 noon. Register by Feb. 4. \$5 members/\$8 nonmembers.

18 A History Lesson-Black History Month. 7-8:30 p.m. Register by Feb. 11. Free.

19 Classical Music with Murray. 1-2:30 p.m. Register by Feb. 12. Free.

20-April 3 Conversational Spanish for Beginners. Tuesdays and Thursdays. 1-3 p.m. \$20. Registration required.

20 Readers' Group. 7-8 p.m. Register by Feb. 14. Free.

21 Watercolor on Silk. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Register by Feb. 12. \$12 members/\$15 nonmembers.

24-Mar. 6 Conversational French. 10 a.m.-12 noon. \$25. Registration required.

25-Mar. 11 Using the Internet. Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1-3 p.m. \$30. Registration required.

25 Simple Tricks to Impress & Amaze. 10:30 a.m.-12 noon. Register by Feb. 18. Free.

27 Desserts to Delight. 1-3 p.m. Register by Feb. 14. \$15 members/\$20 nonmembers.

28 Spring Gardening Tips. 10:30 a.m. Register by Feb. 20. Free.

TEENS For more information, call 240-314-8634.

4,11,18,25 Teen Lounge. Lincoln Park Community Center for students in grades 6-12. 6:30-8:30 p.m.

5,12,19,26 Teen Activity Center. Montrose Community Center for students in grades 6-12. 6-9 p.m.

14 Teen Club Dance. Lincoln Park Community Center, 8-11 p.m. for students in grades 6-12. \$2 members/\$5 nonmembers.

17 Teen Club Trip: Ice Skating. \$15 members/ \$18 nonmembers.

28 Teen Club Dance. Twinbrook Community Recreation Center, 7:30-10 p.m. for students in grades 9-12. \$2 members/\$5 nonmembers.

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS MEETING All meetings at City Hall, unless otherwise noted.

1 Board of Appeals. 9:30 a.m.

11 Rockville Seniors Inc. 1 p.m., Senior Center Board Room

11 Human Services Advisory Commission. 7:30 p.m., Rockville Senior Center Azalea Room

12 Planning Comm. 7 p.m.

12 Cultural Arts Comm. 7:30 p.m.

19 Rockville Housing Enterprises (Housing Authority). 6:30 p.m., Commissioners Board Room, 14 Moore Dr.

20 Rockville Sister City Corporation. 7:30 p.m.

20 Historic Dist. Comm. 7 p.m.

26 Planning Comm. 7 p.m.

27 Senior Citizens Comm. 10 a.m., Rockville Senior Center

28 Human Rights Comm. 7:30 p.m.



Rockville Up Close: A Creative Approach in Hungerford

Residents help shape Rockville through involvement with neighborhood and civic associations and participation on Mayor and Council-appointed Boards and Commissions. On a regular basis, Rockville Up Close will take an in-depth look at these organizations.

With a mix of creativity, ingenuity, persistence and teamwork, the Hungerford Civic Association has proven that it knows how to make the best of a given situation.

When the City of Rockville purchased the land that was the site of the former Hungerford Stoneridge Swim Club, City officials determined that the site was ideal for a stormwater management facility. Once the City finalized the Cabin John Stormwater Management Facility, the Hungerford Civic Association embraced the area and sought to modify its surroundings to add a “park-like” feel.



Members of the Hungerford community worked together to re-name and upgrade the Cabin John Stormwater Management Facility to Stoneridge Pond. Standing (left to right): Karen Manougian, David Hill, Bill Meyer and George Northway. Sitting (left to right): Alec and Philip Manougian.

Today, instead of a rugged Public Works facility, members of the Hungerford community – with the help of the City’s Recreation and Parks staff – have added benches and a paved trail, and have plans to include signs and to accommodate the wildlife at the site.

Residents who stroll through Stoneridge Pond, as its now known, will see ducks and geese basking in the pond, numerous other birds, beavers, rabbits, turtles and a fox. Some of the community’s younger residents can attest to even more wildlife.

“I like to fish in the pond.” I’ve caught bass about this big,” said Philip Manougian, 10, with his arms stretched apart about 8 inches.

Philip and his younger brother, Alec, 7, also utilize the paved path for inline skating and bike riding.

Regarding wildlife, Hungerford Civic Association President David Hill said that the group plans to work with the City’s Croydon Creek Nature Center Supervisor Valerie Oliver to add features to accommodate the animals, such as nesting houses.

Despite its appearances, Hill and the rest of the community are careful not to refer to Stoneridge Pond as a “park,” because the main use is still as a stormwater management facility. But the enhancements that the Hungerford community has made have certainly added a new dimension. RR

Mayor & Council Meetings

All General and Work Sessions and Public Hearings are televised on The Rockville Channel, and are now available on streaming video: www.ci.rockville.md.us.

- Feb. 3 (Mon.) Worksession (Budget Issues #1; Town Center Map/Text Amdenments), 7:30 p.m.
- Feb. 10 (Mon.) General Session, 7:30 p.m.
- Feb. 18 (Tues.) Public Hearing. Worksession (Budget Issues #2), 7:30 p.m.
- Feb. 24 (Mon.) General Session, 7:30 p.m.

Boards & Commissions Vacancies

The City is seeking volunteers for the following:

- Commission on Environment (new)
- Cultural Arts Commission
- Human Rights Commission
- Landlord/Tenant (one for tenant; one at large)
- Retirement Board

For more information, contact the Office of the City Clerk at 240-314-8280.

City Seeks Residents’ Feedback in 2003

Two years ago, 92 percent of responding residents rated the quality of life in Rockville as “excellent or good.” And 84 percent of respondents said they were pleased with the City’s refuse collection service.

These were among the results gathered in the first Rockville Citizen Survey. Over the next one or two months, many City residents will have the opportunity to participate in the 2003 Citizen Survey and again influence government operations.

Overall, most Rockville services and programs fared very well in the 2001 survey. The collected results were used to determine how the government could better serve its residents. More than 48 percent of households asked to participate re-

turned their surveys.

“The participation in the 2001 survey was outstanding,” said Linda Moran, the City’s Council Support Specialist who will help coordinate this year’s survey. “I don’t think people realize how much impact their participation can have on how the City operates. Every department took the feedback very seriously, and even those that had overwhelmingly positive ratings found areas to improve.”

The National Research Center, based in Boulder, Colo., will again conduct the survey and 3,000 randomly selected Rockville residents will receive notification that they are being asked to participate anonymously in the survey. Approximately one week later, they will receive a survey questionnaire

in the mail, along with a pre-paid envelope to return completed surveys.

In late spring, the results will be presented to the Mayor and Council.

Among the areas the survey will explore are: how citizens feel about the services they receive; how much they use existing facilities and take advantage of special events; their impression of City employees; and how well the City communicates with its residents.

“Two years ago we established a baseline,” said Moran. “This year’s survey will really show if we have taken the proper steps to meet the needs of citizens. We are hopeful a great number of the citizens chosen for the survey elect to participate.” RR

Mayor & Council Drop In

The Mayor and one Councilmember are available to meet with residents on a drop-in basis in the Mayor and Council office at City Hall from 5:30-7 p.m. on Mondays (unless otherwise noted) when there is a General Session or Public Hearing. Call the City Clerk’s Office (240-314-8280) as drop-in times are subject to change. In addition to Mayor Larry Giammo, Councilmembers scheduled for February are:

- Feb. 10 (Mon.) Anne Robbins
- Feb. 18 (Tues.) Bob Dorsey
- Feb. 24 (Mon.) John Hall, Jr.



Councilmember John Hall, Jr.

TRC 11	THE ROCKVILLE CHANNEL FEBRUARY PROGRAMMING SCHEDULE						
	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
12 midnight until meeting ends	Planning Commission ▼	Mayor & Council ▼	Mayor & Council ▼	Mayor & Council ▼	Mayor & Council ▼	Mayor & Council ▼	Planning Commission ▼
6am	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report
6:30 am	Cityline	Cityline	Cityline	Cityline	Cityline	Cityline	Cityline
7 am	Town Center	Cityline-Budget	Town Center	Cityline-Budget	Town Center	Cityline-Budget	Town Center
7:30 am	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review
8 am	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report
8:30 am	Mayor & Council ▼	Cityline	Cityline	Cityline	Cityline	Cityline	Mayor & Council ▼
9 am	▼	Cultural Diversity	Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration	African American Heritage	Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration	African American Heritage	▼
10 am	▼	Exploring Rockville’s Past	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼
10:30 am	▼	Responsive & Responsible: Rockville City Government	▼	Responsive & Responsible: Rockville City Government	▼	Town Center	▼
11 am	Cityline	Cityline-Budget	▼	Cityline-Budget	▼	Annual Report	Cityline
11:30 am	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review
12 noon	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report
12:30 pm	Cityline	Cityline	Cityline	Cityline	Cityline	Cityline	Cityline
1 pm	Mayor & Council ▼	Planning Commission ▼	Mayor & Council ▼	Mayor & Council ▼	Planning Commission ▼	Mayor & Council ▼	Planning Commission ▼
4 pm	Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration	▼	Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration	Cityline-Budget	▼	Annual Report	▼
4:30 pm	▼	Cityline-Budget	▼	African American Heritage	Cityline-Budget	Town Center	African American Heritage
5 pm	▼	Cultural Diversity	▼	▼	Cultural Diversity ▼	Caregivers (Adult Homeless)	▼
5:30 pm	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	Cityline-Budget	▼
6 pm	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report
6:30 pm	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review
7 pm	Planning Commission ▼	Cityline-Budget	Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration	Planning Commission ▼	Caregivers (Adult Homeless)	Town Center	Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration
7:30 pm	▼	Mayor & Council ▼	▼	▼	African American Heritage	Mayor & Council ▼	▼
9 pm	▼	▼	Cityline-Budget	▼	Annual Report	▼	Cityline-Budget
9:30 pm	▼	▼	Cityline	▼	Cityline	▼	Cityline
10 pm	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report
10:30 pm	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review
11 pm	Cityline-Budget	Cultural Diversity	Town Center	Cultural Diversity	Cityline-Budget	Cultural Diversity	Preserving the Past
11:30 pm	Caregivers (Adult Homeless)	▼	Annual Report	▼	Caregivers (Adult Homeless)	▼	Responsive & Responsible: Rockville City Government

✂ --- CLIP & SAVE ---

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the Mayor and Council meeting minutes and agendas.



Mayor  
LARRY GIAMMO  
Councilmembers  
ROBERT E. DORSEY,  
JOHN F. HALL, JR.,  
SUSAN R. HOFFMANN,  
ANNE M. ROBBINS

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Rockville Reports is the official publication of the Mayor and Council, published monthly at City Hall, 111 Maryland Ave., Rockville, Md. 20850-2364. It is delivered to all residents of Rockville. Deadline for news is the first day of the preceding month. Phone 240-314-8116.

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